

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being cancelled.

Claim 1-3, 5, 8, 9, 11-14, 21 and 23-25 are currently being amended.

Claims 26-29 are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends and adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending and adding the claims as set forth above, claims 1-3 and 5-29 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claim 21 and 23-25. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 21 and 23-25 have each been placed in independent form to include the features of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claims 21 and 23-25 are now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 18 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1 179 811 to Arrieta in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,704,608 to Azuma; claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arrieta in view of Azuma and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0136851 to Habara et al.; claims 8 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azuma; claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Habara et al. in view of Azuma; claims 1, 13-15 and 22 were rejected

under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arrieta in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,547,151 to Baldi and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0135481 to Conwell; and claims 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0060978 to Okamoto et al. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to recite one or more memory circuits configured to be read wirelessly and attached to or incorporated within the printed document at a predetermined position or positions with respect to the printed document. Thus, unlike the IC cards utilized in Azuma, Arrieta and Baldi, which protect an entire device or document, the one or more memory circuits provided for the claimed security document provide security for a portion of the security document adjacent to the respective memory circuit. Thus, a security document could be comprised at one portion of the document, and not compromised at another portion of the same document.

Such features are not taught or suggested by the combined teachings of the cited art of record.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claim 1, along with presently pending independent claims 8, 11 and 12 that have been amended in a similar manner, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record.

With respect to the rejection of presently pending independent claim 9, that claim now recites reading, by a document reader device, the second information by using the authorization information. On page 8 of the Office Action, it asserts that “manual reading by the guard” was broadly interpreted as covering the features recited in the previous version of claim 9, whereby such an assertion cannot be made with respect to presently pending independent claim 9.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claim 9 is patentable over the cited art of record.

New Claims:

New claims 26-29 have been added, whereby those claims are believed to provide a separate basis of patentability, beyond the reasons set forth above for their respective base claims.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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